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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 27, 1995

5400.1

TO: K. R. Koebel, Waste Regulation Programs, Bldg. T130C, X3072

FROM: *M.B. Murdock*
M. B. Murdock, Ecology, Bldg. T130B, X3560*T.R. Ryon*
T. R. Ryon, Ecology, Bldg. T130B, X3657SUBJECT: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT CONSTRAINTS FOR
PHASE III SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE EFFLUENT TANK
CONSTRUCTION - MBM - 095 - 95

On September 27, 1995, Ecology personnel evaluated the potential revised construction area of the Effluent Tank construction location for the Phase III Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade Project for possible impacts to "probable" Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse range. The project as originally designed did not enter the mapped "probable" range. Revision of the location/area of the tanks may enter the area with this designation. RMRS' Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse experts have determined that:

- This is poor quality habitat for the mouse, based on current knowledge,
- The area has been isolated from other potential Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat for approximately 20 years,
- No Preble's Meadow Jumping Mice have been captured in the South Walnut Creek drainage upstream of Pond B-4 (approximately 0.5 miles from the proposed work site),
- The channel has been substantially re-contoured in the past,
- And the area in question is vegetated with an almost pure stand of Smooth Brome.

It is the professional judgement of the Ecologists, based on the above listed conditions, that Preble's Meadow Jumping Mice are unlikely to occur in or adjacent to the proposed work area. As a precaution, however, the Ecologists recommend a buffer between the proposed work area and the wetland habitat in the drainage bottom. The area designated as a buffer is the area between the High Voltage Line warning signs and the wetland boundary (currently marked with pink pinflags). Effluent Tank construction should not encroach to the south past the line formed by the warning signs.

Should you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at extension 3560 .

MBM:mbm

cc:

C. S. Evans
J. D. Krause
L. E. Woods (KH)

ERP Records File (2)
File

ADMIN RECCRD

BZ-A-000357